MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (d) Most of the food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for Small Scale Sector are delicensed and the entrepreneurs are only to file Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda. However, under the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 and Rules thereunder licence is required for carrying out rice milling operations. The concerned State Governments are empowered to issue licences under this Act. Action has already been initiated for repealing the said Act.

Foreign and Private Sector Investment in Power Transmission and Distribution

1488. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign and private sector investment made in power transmission and distribution network in the country, Statewise, during the last 3 years and results achieved; and

(b) the details regarding estimated requirement of investment in this sector for the current year and projections for the next 5 years, with integrated/ coordinated plan of action to overcome the problems faced because of weak and inadequate transmission/distribution Network, State wise, particularly for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Electrification of Villages in the North-Eastern States

1489. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the North-Eastern States proposed to be electrified during 1996-97;

(b) the time schedule drawn for their electrification; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on such electrification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) The Annual Plan 1996-97 of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) proposes the following programme for the year 1996-97 in the North-Eastern States:—

S. No.	States	Village	Financial* allocation (Rs/lakhs)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	95	995
2.	Assam	280	2075
3.	Manipur	75	925
4.	Meghalaya	40	770
5.	Mizoram	15	475
6.	Nagaland	—	215
7.	Tripura	20	500
	TOTAL	525	5955

The electrification of these 525 villages is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 1997.

*Financial allocation includes allocation for Village Electrification, Pumpset Energisation, Load Intensification and System Improvement etc.

Private Sector Power Projects

1490. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector has sent proposals for starting the power projects, after adoption of policy by Government to allow production of electricity in private sector;

(b) if so, what is the number of projects submitted to the Government upto August, 1996;

(c) the number of projects sanctioned by Government;

(d) the number of sanctioned projects on which the construction work has started upto October, 1996; and

(e) what is the power production capacity of the projects which are under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENU-GOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on date, 124 proposals have been received to set up power projects that require the techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(c) Out of the above projects, 19 power projects have been accorded techno-economic clearance by CEA.

(d) and (e) As per information available in the Ministry of Power, out of the 19 power projects cleared by CEA, construction work is at various stags on 8 projects aggregating to 3194 MW.

Production and Flaring of Natural Gas

1491. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of natural gas and the quantity being flared;

(b) the details of factors responsible for flaring of natural gas; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to control the flaring of natural gas and the success achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The production of natural gas at present is around 62 MMSCMD of which 3.6 MMSCMD is being flared.

(b) Flaring of gas is due to technical requirements of field operation, lack of infrastructural facility, fluctuations in offtake by consumers, availability of gas at isolated structures etc.

(c) Steps taken to control gas flaring include setting up the required compression and transportation facilities, identification of consumers at isolated locations, underground storage of gas etc. As a result of such measures, the current flaring is around 5.8% of the production as against 6.7% in 1995-96 and 11.5% in 1994-95.

Production of Nuclear Fuel from Uranium

1492. SHRI BHAGABAN: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of nuclear fuel from uranium in the country at present;

(b) whether there has been a protest from green lobbies against Uranium mining;

(c) if so, the steps taken to find alternative sources to produce nuclear fuel; and

(d) the details of the plan of Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) It is not in the national interest to disclose information about the production of nuclear fuel from uranium in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.